



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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The Week Ahead in Washington D.C. – December 10, 2012

Sequestration talks have been less than fruitful as Congressional leaders and the Administration remain divided on key issues to be resolved in order to avoid fiscal cuts promised under the Budget Control Act. Major sticking points include the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts and entitlement program reform.

With this Friday originally set as the target date for adjournment, the House will be in session next week if a deal has not been passed to avoid the fiscal cliff. House and Senate leaders may propose a stopgap measure and delay further action until the next session of Congress. However, the Administration has ordered the Office of Management and Budget to prepare plans to enact the sequestration cuts should a deal not be reached by the end of 2012.

Below you will find a listing of federal legislative activities that, in addition to federal budget discussions, the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of December 10, 2012.

House Hearings

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

10:00 a.m. - House Energy and Commerce Committee: *Oversight of Broadband Spectrum Auctions. Report* to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology states that *the broadcast incentive auction provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act could raise \$7 billion for a nationwide public safety network while helping meet demand for mobile broadband services. If the FCC instead gives away large swaths of the spectrum it clears, as the agency has proposed, it runs the risk of short changing First Responders, squandering much of the legislation's potential, and violating the act.* Webcast available [here](#).

Thursday, December 13, 2012

10:00 a.m. - Energy and Commerce Committee – Subcommittee on Health: *State of Uncertainty: Implementation of PPACA's Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion*– The focus of this hearing is on the implementation of the health care law's exchanges and Medicaid expansion. With less than 13 months until implementation, the committee intends to press the administration to finally respond to the numerous critical questions that remain unanswered nearly 1,000 days since enactment of the health care law. Webcast available [here](#).

House Floor

December 11, 2012

Motion to go to Conference on H.R. 4310 - *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013*. The House expects to appoint conferees on the measure, which authorizes FY 2013 funding for both core Pentagon operations and war-related activities. The House originally passed the bill in May, and the Senate last week passed an amended version (S 3254).

December 12-14, 2012

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

H.R. 6190 - *Asthma Inhalers Relief Act of 2012*. This bill would allow the remaining inventory of CFC inhalers to be sold, by prohibiting the EPA from preventing the distribution, sale and consumption of over-the-counter CFC epinephrine inhalers, and barring the EPA from taking action against any distributor or seller of the inhalers.

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.

House Amendments to S. 1998 - *DHS Audit Requirement Target (DART) Act of 2012*. This bill would require the Homeland Security Department to develop a new financial management strategy with the goal of obtaining an unqualified audit opinion — or a clean, complete audit — and to improve the department's financial accountability and management.

H.R. 4053 - *Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act*. This bill would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to identify and report on federal programs at high risk for improper payments, and to create a standardized methodology for estimating improper payments. It allows for multilateral data sharing between agencies, mandates a government-wide “Do Not Pay Initiative” for prepayment and contract award screening, and requires OMB to establish a plan for curbing improper payments to deceased individuals.

Senate Hearing and Floor Schedule

Monday, December 10, 2012

S. 3637 – *Transaction Account Guarantee Program Temporary Extension*. The Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.3637, the Transaction Account Guarantee extension legislation.